

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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SUBJ: GOP/MNLF NEGOTIATIONS IN TRIPOLI

REF: MANILA 19774

SUMMARY: GOP/NLF AGREEMENT CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE AND
MUSLIM "AUTONOMY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL UNITY." MUSLIMS
GRANTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION IN
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. COMMENT: AGREEMENT APPEARS
TO BE FINAL IN SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING IN
BENGHAZI IN 1973. LIBYAN ROLE MAY SUGGEST QADHAFI
DESIRE TO DISENGAGE FROM FAR-FLUNG AND PERHAPS
DUBIOUS "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." END SUMMARY.

1. DECEMBER 25 LOCAL MEDIA REPORTS GOP AND MNLF
CONCLUDED CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT REACHED DEC 23
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AFTER EIGHT DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS, AGREEMENT RE-
PORTEDLY ALSO GRANTS MORO MUSLIMS "AUTONOMY WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL UNITY IN THEIR REGIONS
TO ORGANIZE THEIR AFFAIRS IN EDUCATION, ECONOMY,
ADMINISTRATION AND ALL MATTERS OF LIFE AFFAIRS."
IN ADDITION, MORO MUSLIMS WILL BE ALLOWED A

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DETERMINE THEIR AFFAIRS
ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAW. MEDIA INDICATES RELIGIOUS
MINORITY WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED IN CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, BOTH SIDES REACHED "FINAL
AGREEMENT" WHICH WAS SIGNED BY LIBYAN MINISTER OF
STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR. ALI TRAYKI, THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC CONGRESS AHMED
KHARIM JAIE, MNLF CHAIRMAN NURI MISWARI, AND GOP
REPRESENTATIVE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE BARERO.
AFTER SIGNING CEREMONY, DR. ALI TRAYKI REPORTEDLY
DESCRIBED AGREEMENT AS "HISTORICAL MOMENT" AND PRAISED
COOPERATION OF GOP AND MNLF REPRESENTATIVES. TRAYKI
PRAISED IN PARTICULAR PRESIDENT MARCOS "WHO WORKED WITH US
AND HE HIMSELF SUPERVISED THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL
REALIZATION OF SUCCESS." TRAYKI REFERRED TO
LIBYA AS HAVING HOSTED FIRST GOP/MNLF CONFERENCE
IN BENGHAZI IN 1973 AND "FINAL CONFERENCE WHICH
SOLVED THE PROBLEM."

COMMENT: STATEMENTS ISSUED AT END OF NEGOTIATIONS
SEEK GIVE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS "FINAL AGREEMENT"
RATHER THAN RECESS OF GOP/MNLF NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE
LOCAL PRESS DID NOT REPORT DETAILS OF "NINE
POINTS" REFERRED TO IN MANILA REFTEL, POINTS PRESUMEDLY
GRANT MORO MUSLIMS "AUTONOMY" IN AREAS, REF PARA 1.
WHILE ORIGINAL MOTIVE OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT
IN GOP/MNLF CONFLICT WAS ALLEGEDLY FOR PROTECTION
OF FELLOW MUSLIMS, AGREEMENT CREATES CONVENIENT
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MEANS FOR LIBYA TO DISENGAGE ITSELF FROM
SUPPORT OF ASIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT WITH DUBIOUS AND
PERHAPS UNREALISTIC GOALS. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE
FOR LIBYA IS NEW AND UNACCUSTOMED ROLE AS PEACEMAKER
WITH ABILITY TO PROJECT INFLUENCE INTO FAR AWAY PACIFIC.
ACCORDING TO LOCAL GOVT-CONTROLLED MEDIA ALL PARTIES,
PRESIDENT MARCOS, GOP NEGOTIATOR BARERO, MNLF LEADER
MISWARI, AND ISLAMIC CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE AHMAD KARIM
JAIE HAVE LAVISHLY PRAISED STATESMANSHIP AND WISDOM OF COL.
QADHAFI AND HIS SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR
TO "SUCCESSFUL" OUTCOME. IN SUM INFERENCE INTENDED IS THAT WHILE
QADHAFI MIGHT BE TEMPORARILY ISOLATED IN ARAB WORLD HE IS
INCREASINGLY A WORLD FIGURE TO BE RECKONED WITH.
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